

EXHIBIT 32
DATE 3-26-13
HB HR 4



March 22, 2013

Dear Representative:

On March 26, the House Agriculture Committee will hear H.R. 4, a resolution regarding the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act that has twice been defeated in committee this session. On behalf of our businesses and organizations, we urge you to oppose this resolution.

H.R. 4, by Representative Kerry White, is substantively identical to Representative White's H.J. 8, which was heard earlier this session in the House Natural Resources Committee. The resolution expresses opposition to the federal Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, a made-in-Montana proposal to revise management of three national forests in Montana.

After hearing extensive testimony on this resolution, the Natural Resources Committee, on a bi-partisan vote, voted not to advance the measure. After a second effort to advance the resolution deadlocked, again with bi-partisan opposition, the committee voted unanimously to table the resolution, effectively killing it for the session.

Now, you are being asked to consider virtually the same flawed resolution. Again, we urge you to oppose it. The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act enjoys the support of Montana's timber industry, sportsmen, conservationists, and others. It has been endorsed by every major newspaper in the state, and has the support of numerous elected officials, chambers of commerce, labor organizations, and businesses. Over 70% of Montanans support the measure.

The legislation would provide new economic opportunities for Montanans by increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration activities, thus creating jobs in the woods; preserving important fish and wildlife habitat; and protecting Montana's world-class outdoor recreation opportunities.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject H.R. 4 when it comes up for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sherm Anderson
Sun Mountain Lumber

Brian Sybert
Montana Wilderness
Association

Bruce Farling
Montana Trout Unlimited

Loren Rose
Pyramid Mountain Lumber

Peter Aengst
The Wilderness Society

Wayne Hirst
Wayne Hirst and Associates/
Three Rivers Challenge

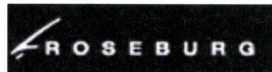
Barb Cestero
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Tom France
National Wildlife Federation

Tim Linehan
Linehan Outfitting Co./Three
Rivers Challenge

Robyn King
Yaak Valley Forest Council/
Three Rivers Challenge

Dan Daly
Roseburg Forest Products
Ed Regan
RY Timber



March 21st, 2013

Chairman Randall and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

We're writing to you as the managers and owners of three large Montana lumber mills and one large particleboard plant to urge you to table HR4 in the House Agriculture Committee. Last month we all submitted testimony or testified in person before the House Natural Resources Committee that this non-binding resolution is inaccurate and irresponsible to the hundreds of Montanans who make their living in the woods. Little has changed since HJ8 became HR4. This resolution stands in opposition to a bill that would create jobs at the businesses we operate.

Together, our facilities - Sun Mountain Lumber, RY Timber, Pyramid Mountain Lumber, and Roseburg Forest Products - directly employ 650 people in Deer Lodge, Townsend, Livingston, Seeley Lake, and Missoula. Each of our mills also supports several hundred loggers, drivers, and other wood products businesses. Altogether, well over one thousand individuals and their families depend on our mills for their livelihood.

We have worked together for nearly a decade to develop and advance the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act because it contains legislative provisions that will change the game for the wood products industry on federal lands. A congressional timber mandate has been on the industry's legislative wish list for more than a generation and when this forest jobs bill passes then the mandate moves off our wish list and into the law books. If our industry is to survive in Montana (and elsewhere) then a timber mandate must become a politically viable tool.

This forest jobs bill would also allow us to apply provisions from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 to a wide range of projects on three National Forests in Montana. These provisions will do more to mitigate chronic litigation of timber projects than anything else currently on the table in Washington D.C.

In short, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act will help us put logs on trucks and create jobs at our mills. We believe the legislation is critical to the future of our mills and our industry statewide.

We do expect your support for the work that we do every day to keep over a thousand Montanans employed and we would like to know how you intend to vote on this resolution as soon as possible. Please contact us using the information below.

Thank you for taking our request seriously.

Sherm Anderson, Owner
Sun Mountain Lumber, Deer Lodge
(406) 846 1600
sherm.anderson@sunmtnlumber.com

Ed Regan, Resource Manager
RY Timber, Townsend
(406) 266 3111
edregan@rytimber.com

Dan Dalv. Fiber Manager

Loren Rose. Chief Operating Officer

Why Do Members of the Wood Products Industry Support the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act?

The Forest Jobs and Restoration Pilot Initiative would:

- Direct the Forest Service to harvest more timber and accomplish more restoration work by **setting enforceable acreage requirements** for mechanical treatment.
- **Maintains the infrastructure of the wood products manufacturing facilities** that provide economic stability to local communities."
- Requires use of Stewardship Contracts to accomplish restoration objectives, resulting in family wage jobs and **more predictable flow of wood products**.
- **Reduces the controversy and gridlock** that has constrained the Forest Service and limited land management activities.
- Is supported by the commitment of mainstream conservation groups to work cooperatively with the wood products industry.

How will this bill result in a more predictable flow of wood products?

For the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest and Three Rivers Ranger District, the bill directs the Forest Service to conduct stewardship logging on 100,000 acres over the course of 15 years, guaranteeing a flow of wood fiber to the mills.

Also, by using funds generated from the sale of wood products for the various restoration activities on a particular project, the Forest Service is not as dependent on congressional appropriations to accomplish restoration work and related timber harvest activities.

How will the bill stop appeals and litigation that have happened in the past?

Advisory committees working with the Forest Service will help design stewardship projects. These committees would include broad representation from diverse forest user groups. The focus is on building good projects that will be widely supported by diverse interests who all have a stake in the outcome. Several mainstream conservation groups have committed to working cooperatively to build good projects, and if necessary, defend those projects.

Also, the legislation prevents appeals that pertain to a specific part of a project from interrupting the entire project. If an appeal is filed and further environmental analysis is required, then only the part of the project that is relevant to the appeal will be stopped.

How will restoration projects be funded?

Partnerships are productive. Already, our partners in the Blackfoot and Clearwater River watersheds have been rewarded for their collaborative work. In August of 2010, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced over a million dollars in funding for the first year of restoration work in those watersheds, and a full ten years of steady funding is scheduled to follow. If timber companies, conservation groups, and recreation clubs continue working together, then federal funding will follow.

If the legislation is successful at accomplishing restoration work and generating timber for local mills, then it could be re-authorized by Congress. At a minimum, many of the successful practices and tools required by the bill can continue to be used by the Forest Service, local communities, industry, and conservation groups after legislative mandates have expired.

What is stewardship contracting? What are some specific projects?

Stewardship contracting uses funds generated from the sale of timber in the project area to accomplish additional work on forestland. Stewardship contracts have a record of success in Montana and projects typically include culvert replacement, trail restoration, and road rehabilitation in areas of high road densities necessary to protect fish and wildlife. Federal funding sources can also be used to fund stewardship contracts and create family-wage jobs by investing in innovative projects that revitalize watersheds and wildlife habitat.

What are the requirements for these projects?

Specific projects are directed to priority landscapes needing restoration with the goal of reducing road densities, improving wildlife habitat, stabilizing stream banks, and reducing the risk of fire, insects and disease within the Wildland Urban Interface. Large landscape projects will limit the number of entries into an area, new permanent roads are not allowed, and access roads must be reclaimed when the project is completed.



Forest Jobs and Recreation Act: Bill Summary

History:

Forest Jobs and Recreation Act: Bill Summary

Montanans depend on our national forests and public lands for jobs, clean water and outdoor recreation. And all Montanans deserve a voice in the future of our public lands. That's why neighbors and traditional adversaries began working together to put people back to work in the woods and protect some of our legendary hunting and fishing grounds.

The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act is the product of these collaborations in which Montanans put aside their differences to forge solutions to challenges confronting our forests. Senator Jon Tester agreed to carry this homegrown plan to Congress, first introducing legislation in 2009.

Bill Summary:

The Act includes three national forests (the Kootenai, Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Lolo), and advances four major goals:

- Maintain a healthy timber industry that provides wood products and jobs.
- Achieve significant fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- Protect public land and ensure access for future generations.
- Support a robust recreation economy including motorized and non-motorized use.

Specifically, this legislation would achieve these goals by:

- Mandating timber harvest with an emphasis on projects that reduce fuel loads, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and produce wood products;
- Requiring the Forest Service to collaborate with interested parties and giving the agency tools for more efficient planning;
- Designating 677,000 acres of wilderness, to ensure that our hunting and fishing heritage is passed on to future generations;
- Designating 336,000 acres of national recreation and special management areas to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including motorized use.

Benefits:

This legislation will help to resolve forest management conflicts that have remained unresolved for decades. It will help advance economic development by:

- Providing direct jobs in the timber industry and the communities that rely on it;
- Expanding economic opportunities through increased recreation and tourism;
- Providing a desirable place to live and work that attracts new businesses and jobs.
- Maintaining a healthy timber industry that provides wood products and jobs.
- Achieve significant fish and wildlife habitat restoration.
- Protect public land to ensure access for future generations.
- Support a robust recreation economy including both motorized and non-motorized use.

SUPPORTERS OF THE FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT -- Updated January 2013

The Montana Forests Coalition has been working together to ensure a healthy economic future for rural Montana, restore fish and wildlife habitat, and protect some of the state's most deserving wild places.

Sportsmen

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Big Blackfoot Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Big Sky Upland Bird Association
Bitter Root Chapter, Trout Unlimited
MT Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Flathead Valley Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
Joe Brooks Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Kootenai Valley Trout Club
Lewis and Clark Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Madison Gallatin Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Madison River Foundation
Magic City Fly Fishers
Missouri River Fly Fishers
Montana Trout Unlimited
Montana Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Federation
Trout Unlimited
Park County Rod and Gun Club
Pat Barnes-Missouri River Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Ravalli County Fish and Wildlife Association
Snowy Mountain Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
West Slope Chapter, Trout Unlimited

Timber

Pyramid Lumber
Rayson Logging
Roseburg Forest Products
RY Lumber
Sun Mountain Lumber
Chapel Cedar
Wayne Hirst, Hirst and Associates

Elected Officials

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Broadwater County
Granite County
Lewis and Clark County
Missoula County
Powell County
City of Missoula
Seeley Lake Community Council
City of Townsend
Max Baucus, United States Senator
Bob Brown, Former Montana Senate President

Susie Browning, Former Granite County Commissioner
Dave Lewis, Montana State Senator
Marc Racicot, Former Governor
Terry Schultz, Former Butte Silver Bow County Commissioner
Brian Schweitzer, Former Governor
Pat Williams, Former Congressman

Economic Development

Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
Missoula Area Economic Development Corp.
Missoula Area Chamber of Commerce
Montana Community Development Corporation
Powell County Chamber of Commerce
Townsend Area Chamber of Commerce

Labor

AFL-CIO Montana
Greater Yellowstone Central Labor Council
Missoula Central Labor Council
Montana Education Association -
Montana Federation of Teachers
Pulp and Paper Worker's Resource Council
Southwest Montana Building Trades Council
Southwest Montana Central Labor Council
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union #28
United Steelworkers

Recreation

Continental Divide Trail Alliance
Flathead Backcountry Horsemen
Highlands Cycling Club of Butte
Kootenai Ridge Riders
Libby Sno-cats
Montana Backcountry Horsemen

Conservation

American Rivers
Clark Fork Coalition
Clearwater Resource Council
Coalition to Protect the Rocky Mountain Front
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
Headwaters Montana
Montana Conservation Voters
Montana Wilderness Association
National Parks Conservation Association

Pintler Audubon
The Wilderness Society
Yaak Valley Forest Council

Outfitters and Guides

Blackfoot River Outfitters
Bob Marshall Wilderness Outfitters
Linehan Outfitting Company
The Missoulian Angler
Rich Ranch Outfitting

Small Businesses

Backcountry Racks and Skis
The Base Camp
Big Dipper Ice Cream
Blossom's Bed & Breakfast
Blue Ribbon Flies
Dunrovin Guest Ranch
Goldsmith's Bed and Breakfast
Great Divide Cyclery
Grizzly Hackle Fly Shop
Kingfisher Fly Shop
Molly Montana Real Estate
Mountain Homes, Inc
Park Avenue Bakery
pLAND Use Consulting
Rovero's Ace Hardware
The Runner's Edge
The Sports Exchange
Strongwater Paddle Sports
The Trail Head
Timber Trails
Watson & Associates
Wade Lake Resort

Media

Bozeman Chronicle
Helena Independent Record
Missoulian
Montana Standard

Other

Assoc. Students of the University of Montana
Blackfoot Community Project
Gallatin County Democratic Central Committee
Montana State University College Democrats
Port of Montana Butte
Seeley Rural Fire District
Three Rivers Challenge
Chris Naumann
Conrad Anker

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT THE FOREST JOBS AND RECREATION ACT

MYTH: The Forest Jobs and Recreation Act (FJRA) will harm mining by preventing important mineral development in wilderness.

FACTS:

1. The forest plans for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Lolo and Kootenai national forests examined all roadless areas for potential conflicts with mineral development. Through this process and others conducted over many years, the proposed wilderness areas in FJRA have been carefully screened to avoid areas with high mineral potential. This screening ensures that the proposed wilderness designations will not limit mineral development on priority sites.
2. The proposed wilderness was modified at the request of the Montana Mining Association (MMA) to exclude high value mineral sites. At the request of MMA, 14,000 acres of the East Pioneers proposed wilderness were dropped because of the potential for mineral development.
3. Section 204(a) of FJRA makes clear that the wilderness designations in FJRA are subject to valid existing rights, including mineral rights. This means that existing mining claims may be developed, even in designated wilderness.

MYTH: FJRA will harm grazing by reducing the amount of sheep and cattle that can graze in wilderness areas.

FACTS:

1. Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act makes clear that "the grazing of livestock" where established prior to wilderness designation, "*shall* be permitted to continue," subject to reasonable regulations. (emphasis added). This is a "shall" not a "may" and means grazing must continue in wilderness.
2. Section 204(i) of FJRA states that grazing "*shall*" be permitted to continue in wilderness, subject to reasonable regulations. Again, the continuance of grazing is mandatory, not discretionary.
3. Sections 204(i)(2) & 204(i)(3) of FJRA require the Forest Service and BLM to manage grazing in wilderness in accordance with the Congressional Grazing Guidelines, which state that "*There shall be no curtailments of grazing in wilderness areas simply because an area is or has been designated as wilderness.*" Wilderness simply cannot be used as a reason to reduce or eliminate grazing.
4. There is no evidence that wilderness designation reduces grazing. The seminal study on wilderness and grazing (published in the Journal of Range Management) found that "In general, permitted AUMs *increased* on wilderness allotments but remained the same for nonwilderness allotments." (emphasis added)

MYTH: FJRA will harm grazing by limiting grazing infrastructure that protects natural resources, especially in the Snowcrests.

FACTS:

1. The proposed Snowcrest Wilderness Area follows precisely the area recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service. The agency currently manages the area as wilderness.
2. Sections 204(i)(2) & 204(i)(3) of FJRA require the Forest Service and BLM to manage

in wilderness.” The Guidelines further state that new facilities are permissible in wilderness where needed to protect natural resources.

3. Section 204(m) of FJRA specifically addresses grazing in the Snowcrest Wilderness Area and states that maintenance of the existing grazing facilities designed to protect the arctic grayling may continue, as may the use of motorized vehicles for sheep trailing across the range. This language was included in FJRA after conversations with the Ruby Valley Stock Association and others.

MYTH: If the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) legislation is not renewed, FJRA will cost counties revenue through diminished timber receipts.

FACTS:

1. Counties will face a revenue shortfall if SRS funding is not renewed *regardless of whether FJRA passes* because the amount of guaranteed funding counties receive is far higher than they would receive through a portion of timber receipts. This is a separate issue from FJRA.
2. FJRA would provide for higher and more consistent timber harvests than the USFS currently authorizes. This increase and consistency will lead to more jobs in the woods, a stronger tax base, and increased revenue for counties. Were SRS to disappear, counties would be better off with FJRA passing.

MYTH: FJRA will harm Montana’s economy which is dependent on resource extraction.

FACTS:

1. FJRA provides for increased forest restoration activities that will lead to significant increases in Montana forest jobs.
2. A huge component of the strength of Montana’s economy is its public lands—and the recreation opportunities they afford—and FJRA ensures that these lands and opportunities are preserved into the future. This will strengthen Montana’s economy.
3. According to Headwaters Economics, from 2000 to 2010, Montana’s economy created 73,732 new jobs, with 95% of this growth coming from service-related industries.
4. Protected public lands are a primary economic driver: western non-metropolitan counties that contain protected public lands have experienced economic growth at *four times the rate* of similar counties without protected public lands.
5. The Yale School of Forestry estimates that approximately 568 timber jobs will be stabilized and 216 new timber jobs will be created by FJRA with projects on just the Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Lolo National Forests.

MYTH: Mining, grazing, and county representatives were not asked their opinion on FJRA prior to the bill being introduced.

FACTS:

1. As described above, Senator Tester’s staff met with representatives of the Montana Mining Association and Ruby Valley Stockgrowers Association, and Senator Tester made changes to the legislation prior to introduction based in input from these organizations.
2. Senator Tester also held numerous listening sessions throughout Montana, posted proposed bill language and maps on his website and asked for feedback, and had individual meeting with numerous organizations and individuals to address concerns and answer questions about the legislation.
3. As a result of these meetings and listening sessions, Senator Tester made numerous changes to the bill both before and after introduction. These changes include modifications to the forestry provisions, as well as wilderness and recreation area designations. Examples of changes include the Snowcrest grazing language and reduction in size of the East Pioneers proposed

MYTH: FJRA will harm recreation by reducing opportunities for motorized recreation.

FACTS:

1. The proposed wilderness areas in FJRA were carefully reviewed to ensure minimal impacts on motorized recreation. Many of the areas are already closed to motorized vehicles under agency rules.
2. Montana's public lands contain over 6,500 miles of roads and trails open to motorized vehicles that will not be affected by FJRA.
3. Section 207(a) of FJRA establishes eight separate Recreation Management Areas totaling 330,000 acres, which would permanently protect motor vehicle use for the first time in Montana history.
4. FJRA also releases the vast majority of the West Pioneers Wilderness Study Area, designated under the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977, from Wilderness Study Area status, replacing it with a Recreation Area designation that allows for motorized recreation in both summer and winter.
4. The Seeley Lake Driftriders, Ovando Snowmobile Club, Kootenai Ridge Riders, and Libby Sno-cats have endorsed the legislation's provisions on the Lolo and Kootenai National Forests.

MYTH: The Wilderness Act requires a complete mineral inventory of wilderness areas prior to designation.

FACTS:

1. Nothing in the Wilderness Act requires such an inventory, and no such inventory has ever been completed as a requirement of wilderness designation.
2. Section 4(d)(2) of the Wilderness Act permits mineral prospecting in wilderness areas "for the purposes of gathering information about mineral or other resources" if carried out in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment.
3. Section 4(d)(3) of the Wilderness Act specifically addresses mineral leasing and claims and makes no mention of a required inventory prior to wilderness designation.

MYTH: FJRA will not help mitigate the impacts of litigation on timber projects.

FACTS:

1. Sections 103(d) and 104(a)(5) of FJRA apply the administrative review provisions of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) to forest restoration projects carried out under FJRA. This will streamline environmental analyses by requiring the Forest Service to propose just one alternative (in addition to a no action alternative), which will save the Forest Service time and money, and provide an expedited administrative appeal process.
2. These provisions will prevent appeals that pertain to a specific part of a project from interrupting the entire project. If an appeal is filed and further environmental analysis is required, then only the part of the project that is relevant to the appeal will be stopped.
3. Additionally, if a project goes to court, the application of HFRA allows a judge to weigh the balance of harms by considering the impact of not advancing the project rather than narrowly considering just the impacts of advancing the project. The judge also must issue time limits on injunctions.

For more information, contact:

Sherm Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber, 406-846-1600

January 31, 2013

Dear Chairman Bennett and members of the House Natural Resources Committee:

We are writing to you as the leaders of growing Montana businesses to urge you to table HJ8 during Executive Action in the House Natural Resources Committee this Friday. This inaccurate non-binding resolution opposing the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act sends the wrong message to the entrepreneurs creating new job growth and diversifying Montana's economy today.

Montana's outdoor assets and public lands are a large part of what makes this state unique, and are an important economic asset. Many businesses and individuals come to Montana because of the high quality of life associated with abundant public lands and outdoor recreation. These people bring jobs for Montanans and economic development to our state's communities. In short, the protection of our public lands and solid forest stewardship provided by the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act will help to ensure Montana's future economic prosperity.

Montana's economy outperforms the Nation's in large part due to our state's incredible outdoor assets, with high-wage service industries leading Montana's job growth. From 2000-2009, Montana created 4,477 net new businesses, while the U.S. saw 3% decline in business over the same time.

Our businesses are able to recruit talented, skilled employees because of the incredible landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities that will be protected by the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act. Together, we employ approximately 370 Montanans from Billings to Whitefish in manufacturing and high tech businesses.

In short, protecting and restoring our national forests provides Montana communities, businesses and entrepreneurs with a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. Given the importance of a strong economy and our ability to compete globally, we respectfully request that you support continued investment in America's great outdoors, through community driven land-protection bills such as the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

Please oppose HJ 8. Sincerely,

Spencer Williams President
West Paw Design Bozeman, Montana

Bill Berg President
Coolworks.com Gardiner, Montana

Lance Trebesch
Chief Executive Officer
Ticket River & Ticketprinting.com Harlowton, Montana

Reed Gregerson President
Zaneray Group Whitefish, Montana

Jeff Welch President
Mercury CSC Bozeman, Montana

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Daren Nordhagen President
Foundant Technologies Bozeman, Montana

Dan Austin
Owner and Director
Austin Lehman Adventures Billings, Montana

John Frandsen
Chief Product Officer Old Town Creative Whitefish, Montana

Alex Philp
Founder and President GCS Research Missoula, Montana

KC Walsh
President
Simms Fishing Products Bozeman, Montana

Political games are a waste of time

12 HOURS AGO • [IR EDITORIAL](#)

Rep. Kerry White, R-Bozeman, is getting creative in order to try and get a piece of legislation passed.

White introduced House Joint Resolution 8 on Jan. 22 in the House Natural Resources Committee. The HJ 8 is a resolution in opposition to Sen. Jon Tester's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act.

Fortunately White's resolution was tabled in the Natural Resources Committee, but not after it had a lengthy public hearing that lasted more than two hours and included a substantial amount of testimony both in favor and opposition of the resolution and Tester's bill.

But an interesting thing happened on March 12. Kerry's bill was reintroduced to the House Agriculture Committee, this time as House Resolution 4. The text of the bill is nearly exactly the same as HJ 8 and was dead as of Feb. 28 because, being tabled in committee, it didn't make the transmittal deadline.

As you would expect, it's generally against the rules of the Legislature to allow the same bill to be introduced again in the same session after it has died. However, despite this logic, Kerry's resolution is scheduled for another public hearing in the Agriculture Committee on March 26.

There is little doubt that in some corners of the state, particularly in southwest Montana, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act is a controversial piece of legislation. The bill is touted as a common sense solution developed by the environmental community, sportsmen and timber industry. The bill would establish new wilderness areas and open up other areas of public land to a more steady level of timber harvest.

However, some in the livestock industry believe it would severely limit their access to federal grazing allotments and water improvements. Some in the environmental industry are opposed because it opens the door to areas they don't believe should be logged.

Still, Tester's bill has gained support from groups like the Montana Wilderness Association and the Backcountry Horseman, and leaders like former Democratic Congressman Pat Williams and former Montana Republican Governor, Marc Racicot.

influence, it was important enough to draw people to Helena from around the state to testify.

Both citizens and representatives weighed in on the resolution at the public hearing on Jan. 25 before the Natural Resource Committee. The resolution was tabled on Feb. 12.

On Monday, House Democrats stood up during the regular floor session to oppose the reintroduction of White's resolution in the Agriculture Committee. But because the Democrats are in the minority, there is little they can do but object. Speaker of the House Blasdel noted their objection.

White's resolution should not have been allowed to be reintroduced and doesn't belong in the House Agriculture committee anyway. For White and other supporters of the resolution, that should be good enough. It's a simple waste of time to reintroduce this relatively meaningless piece of legislation and we call on the Rep. Lee Randall, R-Broadus, chair of the Agriculture Committee, to immediately table this resolution again and focus his committee on more important matters.

Bozeman Daily Chronicle Editorial:

Forest resolution more hot air from Helena

Posted: Thursday, February 7, 2013 9:20 am

Freshman state Rep. Kerry White is nothing if not a crusader. The problem is, though, crusaders rarely make good legislators.

The Bozeman-area Republican has been a long-standing and outspoken advocate for motorized recreation on public lands, which in Montana means primarily federal lands.

In his first weeks as a state lawmaker, White has already staked out a position on a bill in Congress that could potentially create forest product jobs and resolve decades-old controversies concerning the disposition of federal lands. His resolution, if approved, would stand in opposition to U.S. Sen. Jon Testers Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, a federal measure crafted by diverse interests from the timber industry, recreation groups and environmentalists. The bill would guarantee the harvest of substantial amounts of national forest timber in exchange for the permanent protection of some wilderness areas. It also sets aside some forest lands for motorized recreation.

A hearing on White's resolution drew voices of support and opposition from a variety of interests groups. Among those was a spokesman for the Montana Mining Association who voiced support for White's resolution, despite the fact that his organization turned down an invitation to participate in the process that created Tester's bill.

It has been decades since there has been any movement on the wilderness preservation issue in Montana. Tester's bill represents the first time in a generation that traditional adversaries have come together on a compromise over just a small portion of Montana's roadless lands. And it could offer a template and a way forward for resolving the fate of all the state's roadless lands.

Tester's bill is a good one. It creates jobs for Montanans, protects wilderness and deserves the support of Congress, Sen. Max Baucus and Rep. Steve Daines included.

It's worth noting here that state lawmakers have no jurisdiction over federal land management policy. White's measure, then, seems like more hot air that has been part of the state's wilderness debate for far too long.

Lawmakers should send this one to the circular file.